

**Abstract**

A method of providing a seat back (17) of a seat assembly including shape defining steps that involve the use of a design manikin (14). A contour of the centerline (15) for the seat back is determined according to a hip point (10), or 'h-point,' and a torso line (12) of the manikin. The determination includes definition of a lumbar apex reference point (16) above the hip point along the torso line, a lumbar shape reference circle (40) defined as being behind the torso line and spaced apart therefrom, a forward lumbar prominence line (30) which is parallel to the torso line and tangential to the lumbar shape reference circle, and a rearward lumbar prominence (20) line which is parallel to and rearward of the forward lumbar prominence line.